

**Virginia Council on Women  
Women's Healthcare Initiative Subcommittee**

**MINUTES**

January 25, 2018

12:00pm-1:00pm

The Offices of Williams Mullen, 200 South 10th Street, Richmond, Virginia 23462

Subcommittee Members Present: Katy Sawyer (Co-Chair), Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa (Co-Chair), Miriam Bender, Katie Tyson.

Staff Present: Traci DeShazor; student interns Madeline Lohr and Corey Brooks Nolan.

Call to Order: Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa called the meeting to order at 12:18pm. She welcomed everyone in attendance and encouraged them to eat since the Subcommittee meeting was a brown bag working lunch. She said that remaining Subcommittee members stated that they could not attend the meeting or would be delayed. She said that it was important to start the Subcommittee discussion since the Committee meeting began at 1:00pm. Subcommittee members congratulated Traci DeShazor on her reappointment by Governor Northam.

Agenda and Minutes: Katy Sawyer reviewed the agenda distributed in advance of the meeting to provide an overview of the meeting. She stated that as Co-Chairs, she and Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa would alternate duties for Subcommittee meeting facilitation and taking minutes. For the January 2018 meeting, Katy stated that she would facilitate the meeting and Ikeita would take minutes.

New Business – Group Discussion:

Future Meeting Times. Katy Sawyer proposed that Subcommittee meetings take place an hour to an hour and a half prior to each Committee meeting. Katie Tyson agreed. Miriam Bender stated that the Subcommittee needs to continue exploring the feasibility of meeting via conference call. Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa said that the Subcommittee may need to meet once, separate from a Committee meeting day, to plan for April's Women and Girls Health and Wellness Month activities.

Subcommittee Goal. Katy Sawyer reviewed Gov. McAuliffe's 2014 which charged the Women's Healthcare Initiative Subcommittee to "Look at the issue of women's healthcare in VA and develop recommendations on what our state government can do to improve access to quality healthcare." Katy stated that the focus has heavily been on reproductive health to date. Subcommittee members agreed that there is an opportunity and need to broaden women's health beyond reproductive health.

Legislation. Katy Sawyer shared women's health legislative 1-pagers from Healthcare for All Virginians and Women's Equality Coalition (attached). Katy asked how the Subcommittee should handle General Assembly women's health legislation in 2018 given the Assembly's short session and the Council's in-person meeting requirements. Miriam Bender stated that such realities make it almost impossible to be timely with Council letters, etc. She recommended that the Subcommittee learn about Governor Northam's policies and then help educate and mobilize grassroots advocates accordingly. Katy stated that she met with Governor McAuliffe's policy advisor Massey Whorley last year to get a sense of priorities, so a similar meeting with Governor Northam's staff may be useful. Traci DeShazor commended the Subcommittee for viewing women's healthcare through a bigger lens than only reproductive health. Traci said that Lauren Schmitt from the Governor's Office would provide a legislative update later today during the Council meeting, so the Subcommittee will learn about key policy priorities. Traci said that the First Lady will focus on pre-K. Traci reminded Subcommittee members that if more

than two (2) members are present for official business, it constitutes a meeting. Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa recommended that the Subcommittee refrain from taking positions on legislation but inform the public by posting legislation relevant to women's health on the Council website so that those interested could track bill status. Traci said that such efforts would be fine provided the Council follows the Governor's lead on policies.

Next Women's Summit. Subcommittee members agreed that if the Virginia Council on Women hosts another Women's Summit, it makes sense to coordinate a women's health panel. Katie Tyson said that she has panel ideas if the Summit moves forward.

Women & Girls Wellness Month in April. Miriam Bender shared a Women and Girls Wellness Month handout from Women's Health Virginia (attached). Miriam gave an overview of the origin and history of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Women & Girls Wellness Month recognized each April, and she provided a vision for the event moving forward, which would be a proclamation signing ceremony kicking off April's Women & Girls Wellness Month with a "call to action" encouraging others to participate in April, followed by a same-day local community visibility activity. Miriam stated that the proclamation signing ceremony should be more than a photo op and that the day should involve community stakeholders. Katie Tyson agreed with the broadened scope. She liked the idea of a kid-friendly event, such as kids eating fresh foods in a garden. Traci DeShazor stated that First Lady McAuliffe did an event with former First Ladies. Traci will talk with First Lady Northam on the Subcommittee's behalf about a Women & Girls Wellness Month signing ceremony and event in April. The Subcommittee agreed that she will likely be excited about a wellness day involving girls or girls and women since her focus is pre-K. Katie proposed leaving the Richmond area for geographic diversity. Traci stated that the day will likely remain in Richmond given logistics and proclamation signing considerations. Miriam requested that Traci confirm the First Lady can participate in the event even if the Governor can only do the bill signing. Traci said that it may be a good idea to get kids moving since Governor Northam is a runner. Traci asked what age range of girls the Subcommittee is targeting for the event. The Subcommittee answered pre-K and elementary school. Traci will connect with the First Lady's office in the coming weeks and report back to the Subcommittee.

Observance Calendar. Subcommittee members discussed the opportunity for Council website enhancements, especially with new interns. Miriam Bender and Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa suggested a calendar that features the various days, weeks, months, etc. dedicated to helping raise public awareness about issues impacting women and girls (beyond well-known October breast cancer).

Conference Call. Katy Sawyer asked Traci DeShazor to review conference call restrictions for Council and Subcommittee meetings. Traci reviewed the restrictions and stated that she would inform Subcommittee members if the rules change.

Next Subcommittee Meeting. Subcommittee members agreed to meet on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 2:00pm or later. The Subcommittee will announce the meeting during the full Council meeting later today and via email. Meeting location TBD.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm on a motion by Miriam Bender, seconded by Katie Tyson, and adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa, Co-Chair